

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 1, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image former for forming an image on a sheet at a predetermined image-forming speed;
a plurality of feeders, each positioned a different sheet-carrying distance from said image former;
a carrier for feeding and guiding the sheet fed from each of the plurality of feeders to the image former;
a controller for controlling the carrier to suspend feeding of the sheet fed from one of the plurality of feeders at a first position upstream of the image former; and
a sensor for detecting the presence or absence of the sheet at a second position upstream of the first position.
wherein the controller determines whether feeding a subsequent sheet is suspended at a third position between the first position and the second position based on an output signal from the sensor and controls a speed at which the carrier carries the subsequent sheet, based on at least one of which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders or on the image-forming speed of the image former.

2. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position based on the output signal from the sensor and controls the speed at which the carrier carries the sheet, based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders and on the image-forming speed of the image former.

3. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position, based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders and on the image-forming speed of the image former.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the controller controls the speed at which the carrier carries the sheet, based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders and on the image-forming speed of the image former.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position based on the output signal from the sensor and controls the speed at which the carrier carries the sheet, based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders.

6. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim

1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the controller controls the speed at which the carrier carries the sheet based on which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders.

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim

1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position based on the output signal from the sensor and controls the speed at which the carrier carries the subsequent sheet, based on the image-forming speed of the image former.

9. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim

1,

wherein the controller determines whether feeding of the subsequent sheet is suspended at the third position based on the image-forming speed of the image former.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the controller controls the speed at which the carrier carries the sheet
based on the image-forming speed of the image former.

11. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim
1,
wherein, when an image is formed at a first image-forming speed on a sheet
fed from a first feeder, the controller suspends feeding of the subsequent sheet at the third
position after the controller causes the carrier to carry the subsequent sheet at a first speed and,
when the image is formed at the first image-forming speed on a sheet fed from a second feeder
having a sheet-carrying distance to the image former that is shorter than that of the first feeder,
the controller causes the carrier to carry the subsequent sheet at a second speed lower than the
first speed within a predetermined path including the third position without suspending the
subsequent sheet at the third position.

12. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11,
wherein said controller controls the first feeder and the second feeder so as to
feed the subsequent sheet after a first time period followings feeding of a preceding sheet by the
first feeder and the second feeder, both when the image is formed at the first image-forming
speed on the sheet fed from the first feeder and when the image is formed at the first image-
forming speed on the sheet fed from the second feeder.

13. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 12,

wherein, when the image is formed at the first image-forming speed on the sheet fed from the second feeder, the controller controls the second feeder so as to feed the subsequent sheet after a second time period that is longer than the first time period since the second feeder has fed the preceding sheet, and suspends feeding of the subsequent sheet at the third position after the carrier has carried the subsequent sheet at the first speed.

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the first speed is higher than the first image-forming speed.

15. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the controller causes the image former to form the image on plain paper at a first image-forming speed and to form the image on a thick sheet at a second image-forming speed that is lower than the first image-forming speed.

16. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a registration roller provided at the first position,

wherein the controller controls the carrier such that the leading end of the sheet impinges against the registration roller that is stopped when feeding of the sheet is suspended at the first position.